News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information Evern D. Ford

Administrator

Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8483

For Immediate Release: December 23, 2013

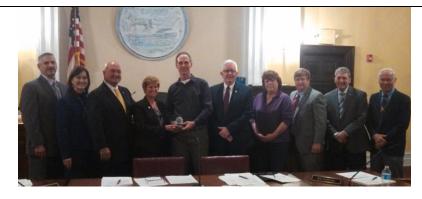
County Garners Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

SALEM, NJ – At the December 4th Freeholder meeting, Freeholder Director Julie Acton publicly lauded the efforts of the Salem County Agriculture Development Board in receiving the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in the Land Conservation Category.

The award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates a commitment to, and experience in, the preservation of open space that protects land from future development.

Salem County and its Board of Freeholders this year are celebrating the preservation of 30,000 acres of farmland, a significant milestone in this rural county. In 1989 the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed a \$1 million bond issue that launched the county on decades of preservation efforts that included working closely with the State Agriculture Development Board to compete against other counties for acquisition funds. The county also partnered with DEP's Green Acres Program and other state and federal conservation organizations to promote exchanges and farmer donations of land values to stretch preservation dollars. Six of nine municipalities in Salem County now provide a cost share to the program. These efforts have helped protect environmentally sensitive lands along the Delaware Bay, the Delaware River and Oldmans Creek.

#



Freeholder Director Julie Acton (4th from left) congratulates Agriculture Development Board Chairman Andrew Buzby (5th from left) and Member Jack Cimprich (r) on receipt of the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award. Also pictured (I-r) Freeholder Deputy Director Dale Cross, Freeholders Beth Timberman, Bruce Bobbitt and Robert Vanderslice, Program Administrator Kris Alexander, Freeholders Ben Laury and Lee Ware.



Award detail.